

CHICAGO – With high Chicago gas prices, Congressman Mark Kirk showcased 10 advanced cars that will significantly reduce America's dependence on foreign oil. Unfortunately, many congressional tax credits encouraging the purchase of these vehicles have expired. Kirk called for Congress to reconvene to make alternative vehicle tax incentives permanent, boost new energy research and authorize exploration of American energy off our coastline. Last Friday, congressional leaders ordered the Congress to take a five-week vacation.

“With tax credits for hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles expiring, Congress does not deserve a vacation,” Congressman Mark Kirk said. “We should get back to work to back new sources of energy, conservation and exploration for American energy off our shores. “But for many people, the cost of a new fuel-efficient car may prevent a family from trading in their gas guzzler. Many of the tax credits Congress created three years ago are already gone, with more phasing out each year. That’s why I introduced the Apollo Energy Independence Act, which permanently extends hybrid tax credits and creates new electric car incentives. We need an effort similar in size and scope of the Apollo Moon Shot Program to end our dependence on foreign oil. By tapping the greatest assets of the United States - Yankee ingenuity and free markets - we can boost alternative vehicle use and increase renewable energies to get off foreign oil.”

Kirk was joined by members of his high school Student Leadership Advisory Board, each who became an expert on one of the showcased cars featured at Chicago's Museum of Science & Industry.

The Apollo Energy Independence Act (H.R.6385) is a \$23 billion initiative to provide market incentives to produce and deploy alternative energy, reducing our dependence on foreign oil. The Act is funded by reducing agricultural subsidies, cutting congressional earmarks and ending outdated telephone subsidies.

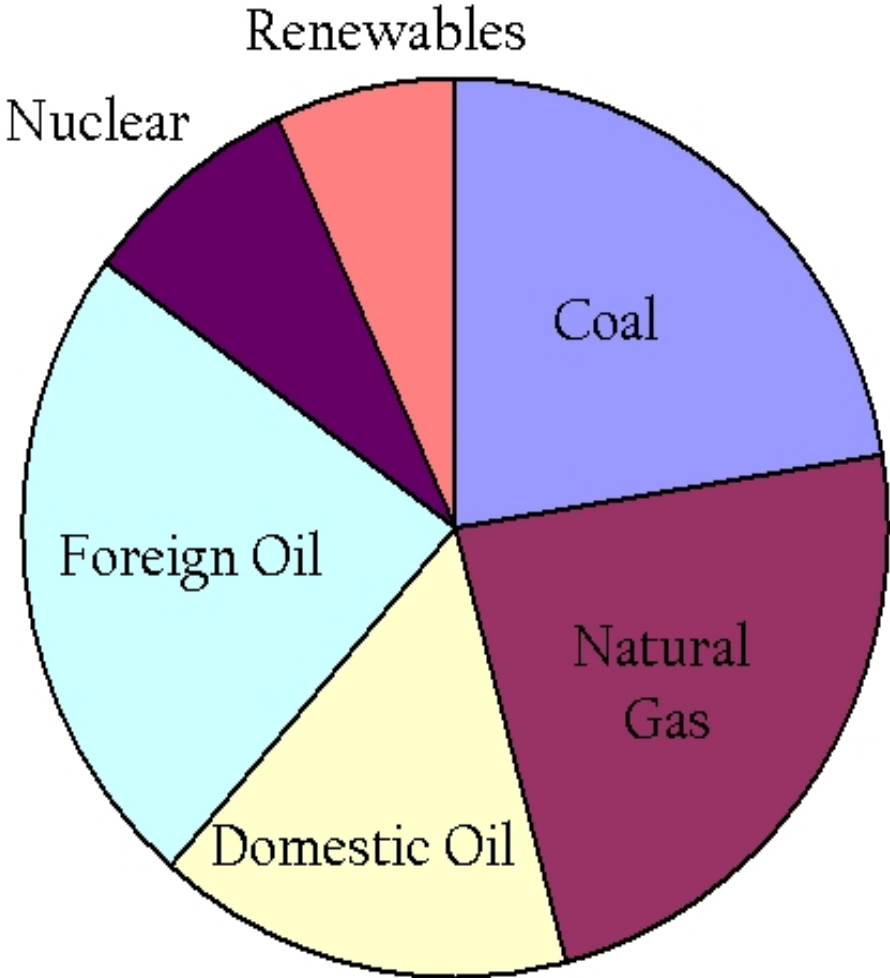
The Act offers tax and market incentives in four categories to promote energy independence, including:

- „X Enhancing development and production of alternative and renewable energies;
- „X Improving energy efficiency in appliances, homes and commercial buildings;
- „X Enhancing production and deployment of alternative vehicles and fuel incentives such as hybrid, plug-in hybrid, fuel cell, electric, flex fuel and hydrogen vehicles;
- „X Reducing consumer energy and gasoline costs by encouraging public transportation, ending fuel monopolies and eliminating trade barriers to cheap foreign ethanol.

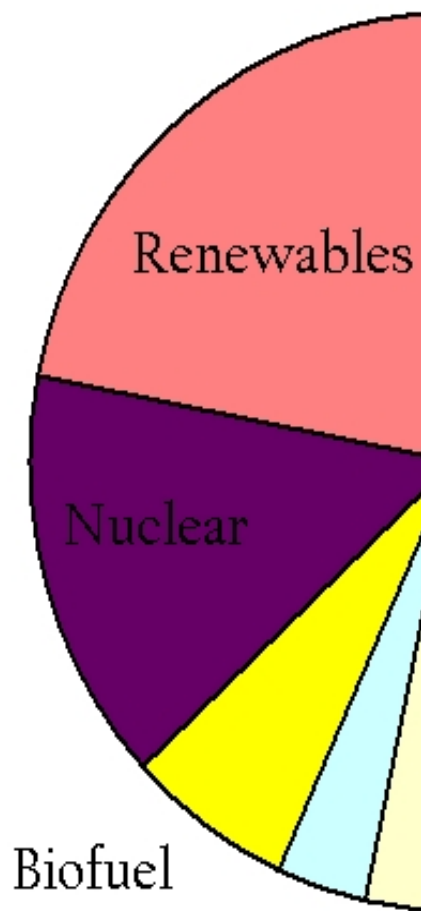
Americans currently import 12 million barrels of oil daily. The policies of the Apollo Act could decrease foreign oil consumption by up to 10 million barrels per day by 2030, according to a study commissioned by the National Hydrogen Association (NHA). At today's crude oil prices, this would save America over \$500 billion annually.

If the proposals established in the Apollo Energy Act are implemented, renewable energy use would increase by more than 220 percent and comprise the largest segment of U.S. energy use. Foreign oil use would plummet by approximately 86 percent. Estimates from the NHA, the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE) and the Energy Information Administration (EIA) place the potential U.S. energy profile at:

Apollo Energy Independence Renewable Energy Increases By Foreign Oil Decreases By



2007 Energy Use



Estimated 2015 Energy Use

By 2015, the U.S. would be able to produce enough oil to meet its own needs, and the U.S. would be able to produce enough natural gas to meet its own needs. The U.S. would be able to produce enough coal to meet its own needs, and the U.S. would be able to produce enough nuclear power to meet its own needs. The U.S. would be able to produce enough renewable energy to meet its own needs.

World's Highest Rated October 2007





Toyota Prius (Highly Fuel Efficient Gas Vehicle) (Expected tax credit of \$2,500 phases out after December 31, 2010)



Chevrolet Equinox (Highly Fuel Efficient Gas Vehicle) (Expected tax credit of \$2,500 phases out after October 2007)



Chevrolet Tahoe (Hybrid) (Expected tax credit of \$2,500 phases out after 60,000 vehicles sold)



Ford Escape (Hybrid) (Expected tax credit of \$1,800 phases out after 60,000 vehicles sold)



Lotus Evija (Electric Vehicle) (Expected tax credit of \$7,000 Under Apollo Energy Independence Act)



Smart car (Electric Vehicle) (Expected tax credit of \$2,500 phases out after December 31, 2010)



Nissan Leaf (Electric Vehicle) (Expected tax credit of \$7,000 Under Apollo Energy Independence Act)